

RACHEL KERN.

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JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. PICKLER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3141.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3141) granting a pension to Rachel Kern, having carefully considered the facts in the case, adopt the accompanying Senate report (No. 1050) as their own, and respectfully recommend the passage of the bill.

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[Senate Report No. 1050, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3141) granting a pension to Rachel Kern, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report:

Rachel Kern was the foster mother (and aunt) of one James M. Allen, late a corporal in Company D, Twelfth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, and who was drowned in the Pamunky River, Virginia, in 1864. Although she was a poor woman, she cared for and supported said Allen from the time he was 5 years old, when his mother died, until he reached that age when he was able to go to work.

She then became dependent upon him, and he continued to live with her and support her from the time he commenced learning the trade of a blacksmith until June 8, 1861, when, as the record shows, he was enrolled as a private in Company D, Twelfth Pennsylvania Reserve Corps (Forty-second Pennsylvania Infantry). During his service in the Army he sent her money at various times. He never had any home, from the time of his mother's death, other than that given him by Mrs. Kern. She is now 78 years of age, too old to perform manual labor, and is dependent upon an almost penniless widowed sister for support.

She never presented a claim to the Pension Bureau, as her case did not come under any existing law.

Among the papers on file with the Committee on Pensions will be found a petition of citizens of Harrisburg, Pa., to the effect that they are well acquainted with Rachel Kern, foster mother of James M. Allen, and that they know to their certain knowledge that she acted as such, and that she is in need of a pension; also a letter from Hon. J. D. Cameron, United States Senator from Pennsylvania, stating that he is acquainted with some of the persons signing the petition, and that they are reputable and prominent citizens of Harrisburg, where he resides; also the affidavit of Rachel Kern, the claimant for a pension, and the affidavits of Mary Kern, James R. Thomas, Ellis Updegrove, William G. Walters, George C. Fager, and Susannah Williams, corroborating the facts above set forth in this report.

Also a communication from the War Department (Record and Pension Office) giving the military record of James M. Allen, showing that he was "drowned in the Pamunky River June 4, 1864, while on his way home."

Your committee believe this to be a meritorious and deserving case, and recommend the passage of the bill.